

U.S. Serial No.: 10/063,601
Amendment dated June 3, 2005
Responsive to Office Action dated March 3, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-16 and 18-23 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat No. 6,598,179 (Chirashnya) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,256,594 (Yamamoto). Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 5, 12, 17 and 24. Reconsideration of the rejections is solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Base claims 1, 10, 13 and 22 have been amended, pursuant to an observation made by the Examiner at page 7, 3rd full paragraph of the Final Office Action, to expressly set forth aspects of the present invention that applicant respectfully submits are outside the description or suggestions of the prior art of record. More particularly, the foregoing claims have been amended to expressly set forth that the operational parameter data is encoded as *fault log data* to be processed by the diagnostics processor in combination with the fault log data to generate diagnostics information. Pursuant to that same observation by the Examiner, a recitation was added in the body of the claims to expressly set forth that the encoding step and the relationships recited in connection with that step enable at least one operational parameter to operate as fault log data when an encoded fault cluster is processed.

Applicant kindly requests that the foregoing amendment be entered since this amendment does not introduce new issues, and furthermore would present the rejected claims in better form for consideration, in the event an appeal were to be pursued. Applicant is appreciative of the Examiner's efforts for providing practical insights as to moving forward and resolving the prosecution of the present invention.

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Applicant is further appreciative of the interview graciously granted by the Examiner on June 3, 2005 where the undersigned had an opportunity to present his perspective regarding notable differences between the applied art, primarily Yamamoto, and the claimed invention.

Applicant will neither reiterate previous remarks nor every detail discussed during the interview held on June 3, but respectfully summarizes that the Yamamoto/Chirashnya combination fails to teach the processing of a plurality of cases with a diagnostics processor that jointly processes fault log data and operational parameter data encoded as fault log data to generate a plurality of weighted repair and distinct fault cluster combinations encoded with operational parameter state data. That is, aspects of the present invention essentially transform the operational parameter data into virtual faults so that the same case-based reasoning techniques used for processing the fault log data can be used for processing fault clusters encoded with operational parameter state data in order to generate diagnostics information for the equipment undergoing diagnostics. Yamamoto's approach is merely to make a determination as to whether or not snapshot data should be transmitted from the vehicle to the monitoring station. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that neither Chirashnya nor Yamamoto, singly or in combination, discloses or suggests the structural and/or operational relationship set forth in the amended claims.

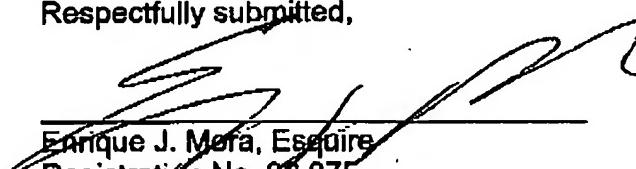
It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims pending in this application recites patentable subject matter and it is further submitted that such claims comply with all statutory requirements and thus each of such claims should be allowed.

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Once again, the applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts for conducting a thorough examination, and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney if there are any outstanding items that may be resolved via telephone conference.

DATED this 3rd day of June, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


Enrique J. Mora, Esquire
Registration No. 36,875
Beusse, Brownlee, Wolter, Mora & Maire, P.A.
390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 2500
Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone: (407) 926-7705
Facsimile: (407) 926-7720